

FORT UNION TRADING POST NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

RENDEZVOUS

SAFETY AND AUTHENTICITY STANDARDS

The staff at Fort Union Trading Post NHS seeks a historically accurate depiction of life at Fort Union Trading Post NHS. To that end, certain standards are expected of all participants.

We concentrate on the period 1828-1867. Clothing, camp equipment and materials should meet the test of being representative of the period. We do however, want all to feel welcome and colonial era (1770s era) is appropriate to this event. This event is co-managed with the Fort Union Muzzle Loader Association, their Bourgeois and Fort Union Park Staff will be available in camp for questions or concerns.

The primary focus of Rendezvous events is to portray and re-create of historic lifeways and material culture; including activities, camping equipment, fashion, and weapons, common on the Northern Plains during Fort Union's period of significance. We ask that you make friendly, personal contacts with our visitors. Such contacts will help create an interactive learning event.

All interpretation should illustrate the interactions between American Indians from the Upper Missouri Tribes (Assiniboine, Crow, Blackfeet, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara and Lakota and Dakota Sioux); the tribes and Euro-Americans (American Fur Company employees, trappers, independent traders, hunters, river-men, missionaries, slaves, visiting artists and scientists, military personnel, etc.); and among Euro-Americans who lived in, worked or traded at, or visited Fort Union in the early to mid-19th century. You can help our visitors understand what daily activities these people engaged in, what problems and challenges each of them faced, and how they may have dealt with them. You can use your experiences to help bring to life the fur trade story of Fort Union Trading Post.

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PARK CONTACTS:

1. Loren Yellow Bird – 701-572-1029 x216 Loren_Yellow_Bird@nps.gov.
Park Ranger & Rendezvous Coordinator
2. Lisa Sanden – 701-572-1029 x218, Lisa_Sanden@nps.gov.
Park Ranger & Volunteer In Parks (VIP) Coordinator
3. During Rendezvous, after hours park contacts will be staff members camping at Fort Union, to be announced at the event.

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS AGREEMENTS

1. All participants must sign a VIP volunteer agreement in order to participate and/or camp at Rendezvous
 - a. Individual/Group VIP form – completed by individual or one adult member of a group, unless members of Fort Union Muzzle Loaders Association (FUMLA).
 - b. Current dues paying members of the FUMLA must sign the group portion of the FUMLA VIP agreement.
 - c. Anyone (including FUMLA members) interested in blacksmithing see VIP Coordinator Lisa Sanden. Park staff must approve all blacksmiths. Blacksmithing volunteers must complete an additional VIP agreement and complete a safety orientation.

VOULUNTEER INFORMATION

Help protect and preserve this site's history and resources for future visitors' education and enjoyment while ensuring your own and current visitors' safety.

1. Moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages is permitted during Rendezvous only after visitor hours when the park is closed. No alcoholic beverages are allowed outside the encampment area during publicly attended periods of Rendezvous. Intoxication, and any improper actions as a result of being intoxicated, will not be tolerated.
2. Due to potential fire hazards, smoking is not permitted inside the Trade House, Clerks Office or in any park buildings.
3. Be responsible for your campfires. Fires must be kept small, no larger than needed for cooking purposes only and consistently under control. Dug shallow fire pits are currently allowed near your campsite; however, we do anticipate changes to fire protocol by the 2016 Rendezvous.
4. Collecting and/or removing artifacts from the park is illegal. Respect the site's history.

5. Please respect the purpose of the event. Traders, buckskinners and participating families are to be in period clothing – no blue jeans or tennis shoes. Keep non-period camp items under period cover.
6. Please respect the visiting public. Be cordial to visitors, keep a clean camp, and control your pets and children.
7. Please load and unload at the camp expeditiously. Once unloaded at the campsite, move your vehicle to the designated parking area. Designated camp parking will be in the park housing/maintenance area on the riverside of the maintenance access road. No vehicles are allowed on the path leading east from camp to the maintenance area.
8. If you camp on Trader's Row, we ask that you wait until 4:00 pm Sunday before you bring your vehicle around to break camp. Those who need to leave early plan on camping behind or beyond Trader's Row. This makes for less intrusion on the camp scene Sunday afternoon. If you would like to camp on traders row, but will leave earlier than 4:00 pm, please let park staff know in advance.
9. Please leave a clean camp. Pick up all litter, and return firewood and rocks to where you found them. Return the park-provided gunnysacks to the firewood pile area.
10. Possession of black powder and/or loaded firearms is strictly prohibited, except by Black Powder certified NPS staff and site approved Black Powder volunteers.

CAMP EQUIPMENT

1. The use of a period style canvas or hide tents is mandatory, no modern camping tents will be allowed.
2. Modern equipment such as coolers, sleeping bags, cameras and plastics must be kept covered or stored out of sight.
3. Wood, tin, ceramic, copper, brass, and iron are all acceptable cookware. Modern enamelware or aluminum ware is discouraged
4. Clay pipes and chewing tobacco are acceptable in camp, but no cigarettes please.
5. All historic flags and banners displayed on canoes or within a camp should be representative of the time period interpreted during Rendezvous. You will be asked to remove any flags or banners that are not appropriate for our event.

TRADER SALES ITEMS

1. For any specific questions about sale items please contact Rendezvous Coordinator Loren Yellow Bird.
2. All items sold must be period appropriate and all sale furs must fit the fort's historic period. No domestic animal (excepting farm stock, i.e. sheep or cow) skins or pelts may be sold or displayed at any time.

3. No projectile weapons, such as toy bows and arrows or pop guns, may be sold.
4. All traders must be in period clothing and utilize period displays – i.e. no jeans, sneakers or modern acrylic display stands.

FUR TRADE FASHIONS

The following lists are by no means all inclusive, but rather a general starting list. For any questions, or to find quality sources for clothing, please call Fort Union Trading Post NHS and speak with a park ranger.

The park does have some period clothing and camp gear for loan – to request these items, please call VIP Coordinator Lisa Sanden. It is appropriate to mix and match American Indian and Euro-American clothing.

Also – remember this event is open to the public and modesty (in dress and behavior) is required.

Typical men's clothing may have included:

1. Long-sleeved shirts made from a natural fabric such as leather, linen, cotton, or wool. Please avoid polyester and/or non-period prints.
2. Drop front or French fly breeches or pants in leather, linen, cotton, or wool.
3. A blanket coat or capote.
4. A woven sash and leg ties.
5. Head wear such as knit-style caps or tuques. Beaver, rabbit, or wool felt hats. Scarves of a period fabric.
6. Moccasins, brogans or leather shoes are appropriate. Slippers, sandals, flip flops, tennis shoes or other modern footwear is discouraged.
7. Renaissance Fair (Ren-Fair) and “Pirate” style clothing is not appropriate to our event.

Typical women's clothing may have included

8. American Indian style dresses
 - a. Strap dresses, Trade Dress, leggings, and sleeves made from either leather or natural fabrics such as linen, cotton, or wool. Please avoid faux leather, polyester or non-period prints.
 - b. Moccasins of a period appropriate design.
 - c. A woven sash.
 - d. Shawls and wool blankets for outerwear
 - e. Scarves, beads, and trade silver representative of the period.

9. Euro-American Style Dress

- a. Late colonial to Romantic era dresses are appropriate; including chemises, short-gowns, and skirt combinations, work or a camp dress made from natural fabrics such as linen, cotton, or wool. Please avoid polyester and/or non-period prints.
- b. Civil War era dresses, including hoop skirts, are not appropriate. “Saloon Girl” [any short skirt/exposed corset combination] outfits are prohibited from the event.
- c. Shawls and wool blankets for outerwear
- d. Moccasins, brogans or leather shoes are appropriate. Slippers, sandals, flip flops, tennis shoes or other modern footwear is discouraged.

SAFETY

1. Be aware of hazards and report any new or continuing issues to park staff immediately.
2. Watch your footing; there are numerous ground squirrel holes, which may cause you to injure your feet or ankles.
3. Be careful with fire, use candle lanterns for all candles. Keep campfires small. Fires in the fort fireplaces must be kept moderate in size and allowed to burn out at night.
4. Use caution when cutting wood. Axes and knives are hazardous when used improperly.